

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 200750Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9230

S E C R E T RABAT 3885

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 IMP TO DETERMINE

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MO, DM, FR

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT OF DAHOMEY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER
DEVELOPMENTS IN BENIN

REF: RABAT 1584

1. IN A SECOND CALL ON AMBASSADOR ON JULY 16 FORMER DAHOMEAN
PRESIDENT ZINSOU SAID HE HOPED TO VISIT US IN AUGUST. HE IS
SENDING "HIS MAN" TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO ARRANGE CONTACTS
FOR HIM. THIS IS GERARD GUIBERT, A LOCALLY RESIDENT FRENCHMAN
MARRIED TO ZINSOU'S NIECE. AMBASSADOR GAVE HIM THE NAMES
OF OFFICIALS IN AF/W AND ZINSOU PROMISED TO ADVISE US
BEFORE LEAVING FOR US FROM HIS HOME BASE IN PARIS.

2. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AFTER EMOTIONAL
PRESENTATION ON MALFEASANCE OF BENIN REGIME ZINSOU SAID HE
HAD PAINFULLY REACHED DECISION TO ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW
REGIME, A CAUSE ALLEGEDLY URGED ON HIM BY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
AND MANY OTHERS (INCLUDING FORMER BENIN AMBASSADOR TO
EEC POGNON).

3. ZINSOU CLEARLY CONSIDERS TIME NOT ON HIS SIDE
BECAUSE OF REGIME'S GROWING STRENGTH STEMMING FROM
CUBAN, GUINEAN AND NORTH KOREAN SUPPORT. ZINSOU CLAIMED
FRIENDS IN PLACE IN BENIN BUT SAID THAT MAIN EFFORT WOULD
HAVE TO COME FROM OUTSIDE. NO DETAILS GIVEN AS TO OUTSIDE
BACKERS, IF ANY (FRANCE ALLEGEDLY SYMPATHETIC BUT NOT

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HELPING).

4. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MOROCCANS ARE HELPING, ALTHOUGH ZINSOU IS BEING WELL RECEIVED. HE SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING PRIME MINISTER AND HOPED TO SEE KING, AS HE HAD DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO RABAT IN MARCH.

5. DESPITE AMBASSADOR'S STRONG EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE ANY EXPECTATION OF US ASSISTANCE, ZINSOU MIGHT RAISE HIS PLAN WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

MOFFAT

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NNN

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